

### From the Director of Victim Services



Since the approval of the federal Victims of Crime Act in 1984, the voices of crime victims have become an increasingly important part of criminal proceedings. Many states, including Tennessee, also have laws regarding services for crime victims. The Tennessee Department of Correction provides services related to post-conviction (corrections) to crime victims who are navigating the process. It's important that crime victims in the Volunteer State know they have

the legal right to notification about release dates and movement (to lower security level facilities) involving the offender (s) in their case. By registering with the department, crime victims can be notified when important status changes occur.

Crime has a tremendous impact on victims, family and friends of victims, as well as the community as a whole. By assisting crime victims in navigating the correctios process, the Department of Correction's Victim Services Division provides resources that can make the journey a little less confusing. The positive outcome of assisting crime victims in understanding the process is preventing them from being re-victimized by it.

The vision for crime victims served by the department is that their voices are heard, valued, and included in a collective effort to hold offenders accountable, prevent future harm, and enhance public safety.

*Tamika Dobbins*

### August 2021

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### Victim Services Mission

*To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.*

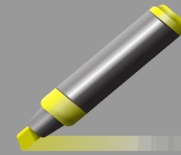
### Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

### Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

# Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet

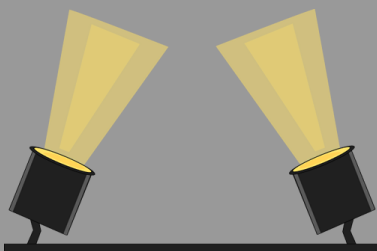


**Jordan Owens** works for the Sexual Assault Center and is a social worker by trade and a Nashville native. Jordan spent time providing trauma-informed care to survivors as a victim advocate before transitioning to a training role. During her time as a victim advocate, Jordan assisted survivors in navigating the criminal justice system, provided crisis intervention to those seeking medical-legal exams, and led a bi-weekly psychoeducation and support groups for human trafficking survivors.

With her direct service experience informing her work, she now works closely with college and university professionals and victim service providers to improve response and services for survivors across the state. She has served as a panelist in various community events and conversations around intersections of sexual violence, oppression, and

survivorship.

Jordan has a particular interest in providing outreach to the Black community regarding sexual violence and helping folks understand how patriarchy, racism, and sexual violence are linked and have an impact on survivors (especially survivors of color) and their healing journeys. Jordan loves downloading apps to do simple tasks and practices self-care by dancing, burning her favorite candles, and having at home spa days! On any given day, you can catch Jordan busting into song or quoting a movie.



## How Crime Victims React to Trauma

Many crimes involve the use of force or violence against victims. Crime victims of all types of crime may experience **trauma** - physical damage to their bodies or emotional wounds or shock caused by the violence against them. Reactions to trauma vary from person to person and can last for hours, days, weeks, months, or years. **Physical trauma:** Crime victims may experience physical trauma—serious injury or shock to the body, as from a major accident. Victims may have cuts, bruises, fractured arms or legs, or internal injuries. They may have intense stress reactions: their breathing, blood pressure, and heart rate may increase, and their muscles may tighten. They may feel exhausted but unable to sleep, and they may have headaches, increased or decreased appetites, or digestive problems. **Emotional trauma:** Victims may experience emotional trauma—emotional wounds or shocks that may have long-lasting effects. Emotional trauma may take many different forms:

**Shock or numbness:** Victims may feel “frozen” and cut off from their own emotions. Some victims say they feel as if they are “watching a movie” rather than having their own experiences. Victims may not be able to make decisions or conduct their lives as they did before the crime.

**Denial, Disbelief, and Anger:** Victims may experience “denial,” an unconscious defense against painful or unbearable memories and feelings about the crime. Or they may experience disbelief, telling themselves, “this just could not have happened to me!” They may feel intense anger and a desire to get even with the offender.

**Acute Stress Disorder:** Some crime victims may experience trouble sleeping, flash-backs, extreme tension or anxiety, outbursts of anger, memory problems, trouble concentrating, and other symptoms of distress for days or weeks following a trauma. A person may be diagnosed as having acute stress disorder (ASD) if these or other mental disorders continue for a minimum of two days to up to four weeks within a month of the trauma. If these symptoms persist after a month, the diagnosis becomes posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

## Victim Services Monthly Statistics

### Central Office Phone Calls

Telephone Calls	July
Phone calls Received/Returned	148
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	107
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	10
Referrals	28
Release/Parole Inquiry	57
Other	50

### Central Office Mailed Notifications

Notifications Mailed	July
Registrations/Voice	120
Movement	70
Advance Release	865
Final Release *	45
Death	10
Other	3



### Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report 07-01-2021 to 07-31-2021

Agency	Month	Email	TTY	SMS	Phone	InApp	Letter	Total
TN Department of Correction	July 2021	7,707	18	19,010	6,413	378	1	33,527
	<b>AGENCY TOTALS</b>	<b>7,707</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19,010</b>	<b>6,413</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33,527</b>
	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	<b>7,707</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19,010</b>	<b>6,413</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33,527</b>

### New Registration Statistics By Registrant Classification 07-01-2021 to 07-31-2021

			Anonymous	Concerned citizen	Family member of offender	Family member of victim	Law enforcement	Not Reported	Other	Victim	Victim coordinator/advocate	Total
TN Department of Correction	July	2021	126	105	519	5,701	362	2,610	174	71	2	9,670
	<b>AGENCY TOTALS</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>5,701</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9,670</b>
	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>5,701</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9,670</b>

# Announcements



Following the success of our earlier webinar trainings, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program has received multiple requests from our advocacy groups for additional training opportunities. The Tennessee Department of Treasury has added two additional opportunities to give participating victim advocates necessary resources and information. We also encourage you to share this training opportunity with others who may benefit.

Individuals may participate through WebEx with a computer internet connection or by phone. The webinar will be one hour in length.

Who should attend: Victim advocates who directly serve victims of crime on a daily basis.

Topics to be addressed include:

Benefits and guidelines of the program

Application process

Appeal process

Procedures regarding the appropriate documentation of a claim application

Attendance certificates will be provided to those attendees who sign in to WebEx via email and complete the session.

An email with the link to join the webinar will be sent the day before the training to the address you provide.

If you have any questions, you may reach us at [Criminal.Injury@tn.gov](mailto:Criminal.Injury@tn.gov). You can also find additional resources for victim advocates at [Criminal Injuries Compensation](#).

Please register as soon as possible for one of the webinar sessions below.

## TUESDAY

August 31, 2021

Webinar via WebEx

1:00 - 2:00 p.m., CT

## THURSDAY

September 9, 2021

Webinar via WebEx

10:00 - 11:00 a.m., CT

# Announcements

## 2022 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW)

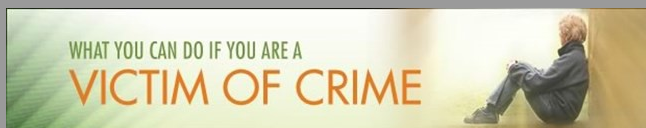
**SAVE THE DATE**

**April 24-30, 2022**

The weeklong initiative promotes victims' rights and honors crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.



The TN Coalition would like to invite you to register for our Annual Conference, to be held in person at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs September 20-21, 2021. The deadline for hotel booking at the special conference rate is August 27th.



**WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A**

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

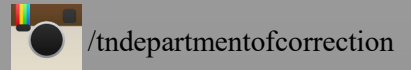
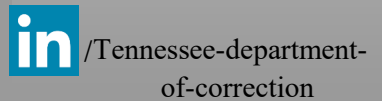
Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Sexual Assault Center 24 Hour Crisis & Support: 1-866-811-RISE (7473)

**Stay Connected  
With #TeamTDOC!**

**Follow Us:**



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